

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 15-707

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Maintenance of AGFD # 808 -Butterfly/ Shannahan Water Development & # 814 – Montezuma Tank, in the Sierra Estrella Mountains

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 6/ GMU 39

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

•

Was the project presented to the LHPC?
YES[] NO[X]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[] NO[X]

If Yes, was it funded? YES[X] NO[] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):** 10-711

Project Type: Water Development: Operation and Maintenance

Brief Project Summary:

A 2014 flow event caused sedimentation of water development sites in the Sierra Estrella Mountains. Proposal is to fly personnel and equipment into the sites to remove sediment from the water catchments. Staging on the western side of the Sierra Estrella Mountains and due to the remoteness of this particular site, a helicopter will be needed to fly AGFD, BLM and ADBSS personnel, materials, tools, equipment and water to and from the water development site. Once at the site, all sediment will be removed from both the gabion structures above the pothole, and from within the pothole itself. Upon removal of these materials, the group will repair and maintain any cracks or leaks in the pothole walls or floor, install escape steps if warranted, repair and maintain any shade structure deficiencies and haul water back to the pothole if necessary. All reasonable attempts will be made to capture and save any water in the system. Once work is completed, any and all debris will be removed and all signs of activity will be eliminated where practicable.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Bighorn Sheep (100%)

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:

January 5, 2016

Project End Date:

January 12, 2016

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes[X] No[] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: June 1995

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes[X] No[] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date:

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[]

To be Completed by: Joe Currie

Projected Completion Date:

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$ 20000

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

\$

Total Project Costs:

\$ 20,000

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION		
Applicant (please print): Joe Currie	Address: 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086	E-mail: jcurrie@azgfd.gov
Telephone: 623 236 7867		Date: August 26, 2015
AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):		
Project has been coordinated with: Bureau of Land Management, DBSS		

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS: The need for year around water sources in 39 is part of the overall management for the desert bighorn sheep population in the Sierra Estrellas. Sedimentation has decreased the amount of available water storage and thereby decreased the amount of available water during the critical hot period (April to September).

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: This project will clean out sediment from several tanks to provide water for wildlife.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES: Staging on the western side of the Sierra Estrella Mountains and due to the remoteness of this particular site, a helicopter will be needed to fly AGFD, BLM and ADBSS personnel, materials, tools, equipment and water to and from the water development site. Once at the site, all sediment will be removed from both the gabion structures above the pothole, and from within the pothole itself. Upon removal of these materials, the group will repair and maintain any cracks or leaks in the pothole walls or floor, install escape steps if warranted, repair and maintain any shade structure deficiencies and haul water back to the pothole if necessary. All reasonable attempts will be made to capture and save any water in the system. Once work is completed, any and all debris will be removed and all signs of activity will be eliminated where practicable.

PROJECT LOCATION: This project is located on BLM in the Sierra Estrella Wilderness Area.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

- Bureau of Land Management

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?
YES[] NO[] N/A[X]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Desert upland hills with palo verde and sub shrubs. The elevation is about 3000 feet.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

TOTAL GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED: **\$20,000**

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

Anticipated Costs are:

Helicopter services	\$18,000
Materials and supplies	\$2,000

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Arizona Game & Fish Department: Labor, in-kind labor writing proposal and coordinate completion report, site visits and monitoring after completion.

Bureau of Land Management: NEPA and wilderness clearance.

Non-Profit Organization (possible funding partners): Desert Bighorn Sheep Society has identified this as a project where personnel and equipment will be available for the work.

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES[] NO[] N/A[X]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN: This pothole will be monitored once every month during the critical hot period from April through September each year via fly over to assure it is in good working order and verify a supply of available water.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE: See monitoring plan above.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY: Joseph Currie

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS *(please use the worksheet below):*

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS *(please use the worksheet below):*

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Maintenance of AGFD # 808 -Butterfly/ Shannahan Water Development & # 814 –Montezuma Tank, in the Sierra Estrella Mountains

1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”**

YES

2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
SSDV Program Manager Ed Jahrke, December 2015

3) **What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)**

☐2-4 ☐4-6 ☒6-8 ☐8-10 ☐10-12 ☐12-14 ☐14-16 ☐ >16

4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**

YES☒ (please complete #5 below) NO☐ (skip #5 below)

5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**

Name of water source: AGFD #814 ‘Montezuma Tank’

Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank, etc.): modified pothole

Ownership of water source: Arizona Game and Fish Department

Distance in miles from project: 2.5 miles

6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts?** YES☐ NO☒

7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**

BLM Sierra Estrella Wilderness

8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**

Type of access (mark one): ☐2x4 vehicles ☐4x4 only ☒foot only**

**If foot access only: Distance in miles: 8 Approximate hiking time: 6 hours 1 way

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES☐ NO☒

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access: After completion it will have access by foot only.

9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**

10) **Was a site visit completed?** Yes☒ No☐

If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.

Members at large of the ADBSS (early January 2015); several fly-over’s/water checks by AGFD field personnel in last several months.